

ASSESSMENT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT: THE OMAN EXPERIENCE

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ABSTRACT

Providing quality education is one of the thrusts of all higher education institutions in Oman and around the globe. Inherent to quality education is the development of students' learning through an effective approach towards teaching and assessment practices.

The effectiveness of learning could be best measured using different assessment tools to be able to evaluate students' understanding of what has been taught to them. Higher education institutions have been utilizing different assessment tools; however, some of them do not have a systematic method to be able to assess the efficiency of the tools and to be able to properly evaluate the attainment of the learning outcomes of the course.

The teacher's considerable participation in the use of the assessment tools is highly encouraged in order to check whether or not learning has taken place. The conformance to assessment standards through the use of effective assessment tools brings forth a number of benefits when preparing exam questions and when assessing learning. In this sense, teachers in their own right are not only learning facilitators in class but also exam writers and learning assessors.

The intent of this study is to discover and explore the various assessment tools being used by HEIs in Oman and describe its perceived value. Come up with quality exam standards in constructing valid, reliable, standard, comprehensive and objective exam questions. Develop an assessment framework which emanated from a sound assessment process structure.

KEYWORDS: Assessment, Quality Exams, Test Blueprint, Test Construction